

What is claim is:

1. An electronic monitor for detecting the presence and absence of a locking bar that mates with a cabinet with the presence thereof preventing the opening of one or more drawers being housed by said cabinet, said electronic monitor comprising:

a first electrode fixed at a predetermined location on said locking bar;

current sensing network comprising;

source of electrical excitation having first and second ends;

current sensor having first and second ends and generating an output upon detecting current flow with the first end thereof connected to said second end of said source of electrical excitation;

second and third electrodes spaced apart from each other with the second electrode connected to said first end of said source of electrical excitation and said third electrode connected to said second end of said current

sensor, said second and third being located in a predetermined manner so as to come into contact with said first electrode when said locking bar mates with said cabinet; and

a transmitter connected to said output of said current sensor and generating a predetermined signal of a selected communication link upon said detection of a change in said current flow.

2. The electronic monitor according to claim 1 further comprising a guiding assembly for assisting alignment of said second and third electrodes with said first electrode when said locking bar mates with said cabinet.

3. The electronic monitor according to claim 2 wherein said guiding assembly comprises a magnetic assembly comprising;

a first magnetic positioned on said locking bar positioned adjacent said first electrode; and

a second magnetic positioned on said cabinet positioned adjacent said second and third electrodes.

4. The electronic monitor according to claim 1 wherein said predetermined signal is a Radio Frequency (RF) signal.

5. The electronic monitor according to claim 1 wherein said communication link is selected from the group consisting of a Frequency Shift Key (FSK) technique and an Amplitude Shift Key (ASK) technique.

6. The electronic monitor according to claim 1 wherein said predetermined signal comprises a series of RF pulses and, wherein at least ten (10) RF pulses occur within duration of about 200 milliseconds.

7. The electronic monitor according to claim 1 further comprising a test switch connected across said second and third electrodes.

8. An electronic monitoring system for detecting and displaying at a central location the presence and absence of one or more fasteners that respectively secure one or more cabinets with the presence thereof preventing the opening of one or more drawers being housed in each of the one or more cabinets, said electronic monitoring system comprising;

first electrode fixed at a predetermined location in each of said respective fasteners;

a current sensing network for each of said one or more cabinets and having second and third electrodes located in a respective cabinet in a predetermined manner so that said first electrode of a respective fastener contacts both said second and third electrodes of its respective cabinet when said respective fastener secures said respective cabinet, said current sensing network generating an output signal upon sensing a change in current flow;

a transmitter located in each of said cabinets and connected to said output of a respective current sensing network and generating a predetermined signal of a selected communication link upon detection of said change in said current flow, each of said transmitters generating predetermined signals that are different from each of said transmitters; and

a receiver located at said central location and accepting and recognizing all of said different predetermined signals of all of said transmitters and generating

respective output signals representative of said presence and absence of respective fasteners being attached to respective cabinets.

9. The electronic monitoring system according to claim 8 wherein said predetermined signals are Radio Frequency (RF) signals.

10. The electronic monitoring system according to claim 9 wherein said communication link is selected from the group consisting of a Frequency Shift Key (FSK) technique and an Amplitude Shift Key (ASK) technique.

11. The electronic monitor system according to claim 8 further comprising a test switch connected across said second and third electrodes.

~~12. The electronic monitoring system according to claim 8~~  
wherein all of said predetermined signals of all of said transmitters are within a band of frequencies and each of said transmitters generates a particular wave form different from each other and wherein said receiver comprises:

an antenna receiving all of said different signals from all of said transmitters and providing a respective output thereof;

a band pass filter selected to receive and pass all of said predetermined signals within said band of frequencies, said band pass filter providing a representative output thereof;

one or more matched filters each connected to said output of said band pass filter and each separately selected to receive and pass a particular waveform comprising an output signal and corresponding to a respective transmitter; and

a signal processor connected to receive each of said output signals of each of said one or more matched filters and providing a respective output signal representative of the presence and absence of said fastener being secured to a respective cabinet.

13. The electronic monitoring system according to claim 12 further comprising indicator devices respectively connected to

receive each of said representative output of said signal processor.

14. The electronic monitoring system according to claim 13 wherein said processor counts output signals of each of said matched filters and wherein said electronic monitoring system further includes a storage device associated with a respective matched filter and wherein said processor stores the counted output signals of respective matched filters.

15. A method for providing electronic monitoring for detecting at a central location the presence and absence of one or more fasteners that respectively secure one or more cabinets with the presence thereof preventing the opening of one or more drawers being housed in each of the one or more cabinets, said method comprising the steps of:

~~providing a first electrode fixed at a predetermined~~

location in each of said respective fasteners;

providing a current sensing network for each of said one or more cabinets and having second and third electrodes and generating a current flow when said first, second and third electrodes are in contact, said current

sensing network generating an output signal upon  
sensing a change in said current flow;

locating said second and third electrodes on each  
respective cabinet in a predetermined manner so that  
said first electrode of a respective fastener contacts  
both said second and third electrodes of its  
respective cabinet when said respective fastener  
secures respective cabinet;

providing a transmitter located on each of said cabinets  
and connected to said output of respective current  
sensing network and which generates predetermined  
signals of a selected communication link upon  
detection of said output of said current sensing  
network, each of said transmitters generating  
predetermined signals that are different from each of  
said transmitters; and

providing a receiver located at said central location that  
accepts and recognizes all of said different  
predetermined signals of all of said transmitters and  
generates respective output signals representative of  
said presence and absence of respective fasteners.



16. The method according to claim 15 wherein said communication link is selected from the group consisting of a Frequency Shift Key (FSK) technique and an Amplitude Shift Key (ASK) technique.

17. The method according to claim 16 wherein said predetermined signal comprises a series of RF pulses and, wherein said RF pulses occur within a predetermined duration.

18. The method according to claim 17 wherein at least ten (10) RF pulses occur within duration of about 200 milliseconds.

19. The method according to claim 16 wherein said RF pulses represent a binary code.

20. The method according to claim 15 further comprises providing a test switch connected across said second and third electrodes.